

# **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2006**

## **MINUTES**

**A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Saturday, February 11, 2006, at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Chairman Paul Neves at 9:00 a.m., with the following present:**

**Paul Neves, Chair, Rosa Crowley, Linda Teel, Robert C. Thibodeau, Earl T. Wood**

**Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration**

**Absent: Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair, Arthur DaCosta, Clerk**

**A moment of silence was observed for the passing of the former Police Chief, John Partington.**

**I. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the agenda.**

**II. FY 2006-2007 Budget Workshop - The Superintendent thanked the administrative team for the work on the budget which is built on actions. The Superintendent would like to meet 100% of the needs of the students in the district. She noted that the 10.93% increase**

doesn't fully fund the school department. She noted they are regulated by law to fund some programs. The starting point is to focus on 10.93%, or \$52,449,921, which is a \$5,1657,000 change. Mr. Thibodeau noted there is a town self-imposed cap of 4.5% this year, 4% next year and 3.5% the year after. The Superintendent explained that the team had already cut the budget before this presentation. Ms. Teel stated she did not want to chip away at the budget, that they need to educate the community on budget needs.

Discussion of revenues ensued with a review of the revenue lines. The Superintendent reported she recently toured the new Wellness Center with Mr. Hilton and they saw an opportunity to market the Wellness Center as an income source. There is a potential for seating 300 in the bleachers and 1500 with chairs. There is also an enrichment academy in the summer. It was noted some schools won't be available this summer for the summer camp due to renovations.

A review of the expenditures ensued with the Superintendent explaining the requirement for the number of books per classroom for literacy. The Chair requested the actual figure to bring classrooms to the proper supply. Mr. Hilton reviewed some of the capital improvement items by school that included security issues and needed repairs and preventative maintenance. The Superintendent explained they had reviewed the architectural research for projecting utility expenses for the Wellness Center.

## **Cumberland School Committee**

**February 11, 2006/Minutes -2-**

**Mr. Hilton felt two custodians would be sufficient to clean the facility but expressed concern for a security system as the building will become an attractive nuisance. He noted he has requested an estimate for the cost of an alarm and web based camera. There would also be an additional reconditioning of the wood floor in the gym with use of the bleachers which are wheeled out of storage. The Director of Buildings & Grounds also noted he included a truck to sand schools rather than contracting out and the purchase of three auto scrubbers for floors.**

**Mr. Thibodeau's departure is noted at 10:50 a.m.**

**The Superintendent noted the request for a portfolio coordinator by the High School Principal and its importance in supporting literacy goals. She noted the request for a second reading specialist and explained the potential need for a kindergarten teacher position. Ms. Teel requested a summary sheet of new positions. The Superintendent reviewed FTEs by school based on projected enrollment. Ms. Moore commented that the 2.2 social workers are stretched thin over ten buildings and she has requested 1.6 additional positions. Mr. Barrett reported the Technology Summit put together a five year plan and they are now looking to replace computers that**

**don't meet standards, especially at the elementary level. He noted teachers can't print material because there aren't working printers. He also noted the need for a second technician, that one cannot service ten buildings. No action was taken; the next workshop will be February 16th at 6:30 p.m.**

**III. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Crowley and Ms. Teel, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE adjourning at 11:30 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**